Dear Parents

At St. Brendan’s our Vision is lived through our programs and dedications of staff to maximize our student’s learning.

"For you I have Destiny and a Hope"

Taken from the scripture of Jeremiah.

Welcome to the 2017 School Year. It is great to see the children and their bright faces ready to start the year.

This year we welcome our seven new preps and six new families. Please make them feel very welcome.

Over the Holidays our new walking track was completed and the commencement of our outdoor classroom which is beginning to take shape.

Thank you to all the families who helped keeps the veggie garden alive over the hot summer. It looks fabulous.

There has been a timetable change; History will take place on a Tuesday. We wish Mrs. Parkhouse all the best in teaching Indonesian and Asian studies to the student’s and to Mr. Cole who will be taking PE classes on a Wednesday.

On the 3rd of March it will be time to Meet and Greet with your classroom teacher about the goals and wishes for your children. This is only a 10 minute conversation, which will be held throughout the courses of the day. Normal classes will run during these conversations.

The Lay Lead Liturgy to mark the beginning of our School Year will be held on the Sunday 19th February at 9.00am in St Brendan’s Church. For this the first official school event children are to come in their school uniform and be part of the liturgy. The sacramental children will also be making their commitment to join the sacramental program for 2017. It is an expectation that all children and families attend our beginning of year liturgy. There will be a cupper provided after in the hall.

Have a great week.

Yours Sincerely

Anne Ruddell
PRINCIPAL

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
Our first Advisory Council Meeting for 2017 will be held on Monday February 13th. 7.30pm-

PARENTS AND FRIENDS
The first Parents and Friends Meeting for 2017 will be on Tuesday 14th February

SWIMMING PROGRAM
Our 2017 Swimming Program will commence on Wednesday 22nd February and will continue each Wednesday until Wednesday 22nd March. We are returning to Colac Blue Water for our Swimming Program.
Although our Prep children do not attend school on Wednesday until March 15\textsuperscript{th} they are very welcome to join our Swimming Program. Parents are welcome to drive them into Blue Water Fitness or the children can be brought to school at 1.00pm and catch the bus with the other students.

Please make sure all your child’s items of clothing are clearly named including their towel.

**EYE TESTING**
On Friday 24\textsuperscript{th} February we will have the Eye Testing Van visit the school. This is a free service.

**FAMILY FEE ASSISTANCE SCHEME**
The Ballarat Diocese will continue this year with the Family Fee Assistance Scheme. This scheme offers a Tuition Fee concession to families who are eligible. To be eligible you must hold a current Health Care Card that was valid on 1\textsuperscript{st} February 2017. To receive this you must complete a form which is available at the office.

Families who hold a valid Health Care Card are also entitled to apply for a Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund. To apply for either of the above schemes you must complete the form and present your Health Care Card at the office no later than 28\textsuperscript{th} February 2017

**TISSUES**
As usual at the start of the School Year we ask that each child supply 2 boxes of tissues for use in their classroom. Thank you.

**SUN SMART SCHOOL**
As we are a Sun Smart School we need to abide by their rules. Therefore we are required to wear our hats at all times while outside in Term 1 and 4 both in and out of the shade. Children who do not have a hat will spend their lunch time in the shed.

Please put your child’s name clearly on their hat.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**
Children are to be in their School Uniform at all times except on delegated Sports Day when they all wear their Sports Uniform.

If for any reason they are out of uniform you are required to send an explanation note to their Classroom Teacher. Thank you

The Summer Uniform is as follows

**Boys**
- Navy blue shorts, blue open neck shirt, blue socks and black shoes.

**Girls**
- School dress, blue socks, black shoes or roman sandals.

Sneakers are not part of the uniform and are not to be worn.

**SPORTS**

**Boys**
- Navy shorts, new sports top or gold polo shirt

**Girls**
- Navy shorts or navy skorts, new sports top or gold polo shirt

**Boys and Girls**
- School tracksuit and sandshoes

Wide brimmed school hats must be worn not a cap.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE NAMED ALL PIECES OF YOUR CHILDREN’S UNIFORM INCLUDING THEIR HAT.

**LUNCH ORDERS**
We will continue the same as last year with orders being collected each Tuesday and lunch order day the next day (Wednesday). If you want Pizza you must order on Monday to ensure availability.

We thank Embrey’s for this service.
If you would like a lunch order please have your order and money in a brown lunch order bag at school by Tuesday. The money is to be wrapped in glad wrap or something similar –due to Health and Safety regulations. Correct money would be appreciated. Please write your name and what you require for your lunch on the outside of the brown bag. Thank you. No late orders will be accepted.

Attached to today’s Newsletter is the new price list.

Administrative Forms:
Students receive many forms/permission slips during the school year and it certainly assists administration if these forms are returned promptly in order to facilitate the smooth operating of the school. Please ensure that the many forms you will receive today are returned to the school as soon as possible. It is also important to note that students are not permitted on any excursion without returning the relevant written parental consent form.

FORMS ATTACHED   Today’s Newsletter
Confidential Medical and Parental Permission Form.
Internet Protocol Form
Media and Marketing
Swimming Permission
Lunch Order Price List
Absence Notes

All these forms require you to complete one for each student.
My apologies but unfortunately we have to have all these forms!!!!!

LITURGY NEWS
We will be having a Prayer Gathering next Wednesday 15th February at 2.45pm in the Church.
We invite and welcome parents and the community to gather in prayer with us.
Due to the Swimming Program and time constraints we will not be having liturgies this term.
The whole school will be attending Ash Wednesday Mass at St Mary’s Church Colac on 1st March

Thanks
Mandy

PREP/1 NEWS
Welcome to Term 1! A special welcome to new families! I hope everyone has had a pleasant start to the term.

In Term 1 picture story books go home with prep students. You can read these stories each night with your child. It is helpful if you point to each word as you read, this helps children with word and sentence direction. Children can find letters and small words that they recognise on each page. You can make story predictions throughout the text and students can practise retelling the story afterwards. These stories will go home in reader folders (if they fit), with reading diaries. Please feel free to write the book title into the diary and communicate with me in the diary (I try to sign them each day). Try and make reading each night a happy and positive experience so that your child can associate reading with love and enjoyment. Preps begin on level 1 readers at the start of term 2.

The preps and our new grade 1 ‘Charlotte’ have settled in beautifully thanks to the guidance of our awesome grade 1 students and fantastic grade 6 buddies!
Prep students have Wednesdays off up until the Labour Day weekend. They will be very tired and need a rest.

Grade 1 students will begin taking home THRASS spelling words next week. Students learn how to spell THRASS words so they can better utilise the THRASS chart.

We will be having a THRASS information night this term on Tuesday 28th February for new families or anyone that would like to learn more about our THRASS program.

In mathematics we are focusing on place value and 2D shapes over the next fortnight.

Our class pet 'Leo the lion' will go home with Jimmy next week! Each week he will go home with a different family and children can write in his diary what he gets up to. As a class we enjoy reading his diary and reflecting on Leo's adventures.

kparker@sbcoragulac.catholic.edu.au

Thanks
Kate

2/3/4/ NEWS
Welcome back everyone! I hope everyone has had a lovely holiday and we are looking forward to an exciting 2017.

We would like to extend a big welcome to Abigail who has joined our Year 4 class. She has settled really well into our class and school.

This week we have been setting up our room and discussing classroom expectations and the Behaviour Matrix.

We will be investigating ‘bugs’ and the class will be making presentations later this term. More information will follow soon.

In Integrated Curriculum our focus is ‘What is in my backyard?’ We are looking at our local community and environment.

Homework will go out next week with a note explaining the process and expectations.

The children chosen to be SRC’s this term are Johnny Donovan and Soraya Lenehan. I am confident they will represent our class responsibly and with pride.

The Year 4 diaries are on back order and are expected this week. As soon as they arrive they will be sent home.

If you have any queries regarding your child please contact me at school or by email on msutherland@sbcoragulac.catholic.edu.au

Star of the Day awards go to:

Johnny Donovan and Soraya Lenehan.

Congratulations on your excellent work.

Cheers

Mandy
YEAR 5/6 NEWS
Welcome to the New Year! There’s a bit of a list to get through, so I’ll launch straight in.

Homework
1. Hopefully it’s fairly self explanatory. The students seem to be clear on what’s required, but if you’re not sure, feel free to get in touch.
2. Homework should come in on Fridays and will be handed out on Mondays. I don’t really feel there’s a need to be doing homework on weekends……R&R time is just as important.

Technology
1. Students will be bringing home an ‘Acceptable Use’ policy. I’d encourage you to sit with your child and read through this before signing. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.
2. It would be highly desirable for each student to have a set of headphones/earphones that could be left at school. If they’re taking them home each night they tend to be forgotten or broken after being lugged around in bags every day. They don’t need to be expensive……don’t let your little darling con you into buying a you-beaut pair of Beats!

Contacting Me
There are a few options:
1. Email: mcole@sbornagulac.catholic.edu.au
2. Class Dojo (students should have brought home info about this)
3. Give the school a call.

Cheers
Mr C

L.O.T.E.
Dear Parents,
Welcome to our Cultural Awareness Program for 2017. I am so excited to be teaching across all grade levels this year and look forward to sharing with you our Cultural Journey. This year the program will be implemented at 3 levels.
From Foundation to Level 2 the curriculum focus is on developing the knowledge, skills and understandings to enable students to learn about cultures in their immediate world. For students at Foundation to Level 2, learning typically focuses on their immediate family, home, school and friends. This includes cultural practices relevant to their lived experiences such as choice of food, clothing or housing, cultural celebrations and language. The curriculum provides the opportunity for students to begin to explore similarities and differences in cultural practices. They begin to understand the concept of cultural diversity.
During Semester One we will be focusing on Australia, identifying flag, map, national emblem different landscapes and landmarks. I encourage students to bring anything Australian to class on Tuesdays to share!!
Grades 2/3/4 students will be exploring 4 Asian Countries during Semester One; China, Japan, Vietnam, Indonesia (Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand will be explored 2018). Students will be introduced to Australia’s neighbouring Asian countries via Snapshots of Australia. This is the main resource to be used consisting of Big Books aimed at the junior-middle primary classroom. These books will provide students with information about each country using a wide variety of photographs and other visual texts, stimulating page layouts and language appropriate information.
The books will also allow opportunities for students to examine and extend their knowledge of Asian countries, using a variety of factual information, discussion and supporting activities.
Students will be exposed to
- a variety of visual data on the focus country
- a range of set topics in common across the books (eg. religion, environment, famous places, geography, food, families, clothing and famous people or events)
- a basic general knowledge about the focus country
- a variety of informational text forms
- exploring connections between the focus country and their own experiences
- building a strong foundation for further inquiry and investigation

Finally Grade 5/6 students will be exploring Indonesia. Each Indonesian lesson will consist of 1 hour. The first half hour will be spent identifying/completing cultural awareness activities.
This will cover Famous Places, Geography, Environment, Religion, Families, Food, Clothing, Famous people or events.
The second half hour will spent using the online babble app. This will allow students to complete individual lessons at their own pace. Students can access this program at home and complete lessons if they want too!!

**What Is Babbel?** Babbel is a powerful app that combines communicative didactics, cognitivism, behaviorism and constructivism. Progressive lessons are connected together as an interlinking framework, with each step building towards the next. This guarantees learners the shortest path to real-life conversations by:
- Immersing students in a new language through real-life dialogues that will get them speaking right away
- Employing proven cognitive techniques that move new vocab to long-term memory
- Using human voices and speech recognition to get students speaking confidently
- Building each course based on student’s native language and personal interests.

If you wish to discuss this program or have any general concerns please come and see me.

Cheers

Judi Parkhouse.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

**FEBRUARY**

Wednesday is a day of rest for the preps until after Labour Day week-end in March.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>9/10</td>
<td>Principals’ Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Advisory Meeting</td>
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<td>14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Parents and Friends Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>No school for Prep children</td>
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<tr>
<td>19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Opening School Year Liturgy</td>
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<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Swimming Program commences</td>
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<td>No school for Prep children</td>
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<tr>
<td>24&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Eye Testing Van at school</td>
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<td>28&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>THRASS Meeting for interested parents</td>
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**MARCH**

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<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Children to attend Mass in Cola</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<td></td>
<td>No school for Prep children</td>
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<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Meet and Greet for parents</td>
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<td>6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>School Photo Day</td>
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<td>8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Prep children commence attending school on Wednesdays</td>
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<tr>
<td>22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Swimming Program</td>
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**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

The following children celebrated their birthday

**January**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Lexie Johnson</td>
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<td>25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Harlie Sutherland</td>
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<tr>
<td>26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Cassie Day</td>
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**February**

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<td>02&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Lilly Hay</td>
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<tr>
<td>12&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>Tyler Johnson</td>
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